

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ SERVICE

2712

TRADE COMMISSIONER
3 CANTON ROAD
SHANGHAI, CHINA

SHANGHAI June 15, 1923
File 531.

Subject: Manufacture of Automobiles in China.

Director,
Bureau of Foreign & Domestic Commerce,
Washington.

INDEXED
FILE NO. 531
China

Attention Automotive Division

RECEIVED IN
FILES SECTION
AUG 20 1923

Sir:

Referring to Mr. Hoepli's letter of April 2 wherein he states that the Automotive Division is very much interested in the possible manufacture of automobiles in China: Attention is called to an article which appeared in the Sin Wen Pao, a local Chinese daily as follows:

INDEXED

"Chinese Invention of Electric Car."

Motor

Mr. Hu Kuo Kuang, for nine years Director of the Shanghai Storage battery plant of the Ministry of Communications, which has been turning out storage and dry batteries for the use of telegraph offices, telephone offices, and warships for the working of wireless, has established on his own account "The Chinese Storage Battery Factory" at No. 14-15 North Thibet Road, Shanghai. Apart from manufacturing the above batteries to meet the requirements of the public, Mr. Hu has invented an automobile driven by electricity. The machinery of the car is very simple, and is trouble-proof, requiring no repairs at all. No gasoline is used, the motive power being obtained from electricity at a running cost of \$2 or \$3 per month. It is really the cheapest motor car to run. Two seaters and three seaters have now been made, and these, with their fine appearance, will be sold at about \$400 and \$500 apiece. It is reported that registration is being sought for at the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and patent right is being applied for.

Translation - Sin Wen Pao, May 11, 1923."

Our Chinese Secretary, Mr. Wong, was instructed to investigate this matter further. After an interview with the manager of this concern Mr. Wong makes the following report:

ER
A
8-20-

ms

"Chinese Electric Automobile.

Cars: These cars are being made in a factory in Ku Kia Za, and also at 14-15 North Thibet Road. The entire structure, with the exception of tyres, which are made by "Dunlop" and imported by the manager and inventor of the cars, is made locally. There are now made, two-seaters and three-seaters. The body is the smallest yet seen in motor cars, and the wheels are also of small size. The manager states that more than twenty of these small vehicles have been sold, and that the output capacity of his factory is about 10 cars per month. He is now making a bigger car.

Power: The power is supplied from a storage battery which is also built by the said factory. The mechanism is very simple indeed, consisting of the battery and a motor which is of two H.P. capacity, while the car is intended to run at 1 H.P. Thus, it is maintained, the motor will have no chance to burn out. The speed is 18 miles an hour.

Battery Charger: A battery charger, also manufactured by the same man, is sold together with the car at a cheap price to enable the user to charge his own battery from the city electricity. This charger changes A.C. currents into D.C. and may be attached to any electric socket by a plug. The cost of recharging the battery is said to be \$0.20 Mex. One charging will run the car for 60 or 70 li, and it is necessary to charge once every two days for ordinary purposes.

Prices: The two-seaters are sold for \$450, and the bigger car for \$550. This does not include the battery charger which is sold together with cars for \$100 a piece. If bought alone, the battery charger costs \$200.

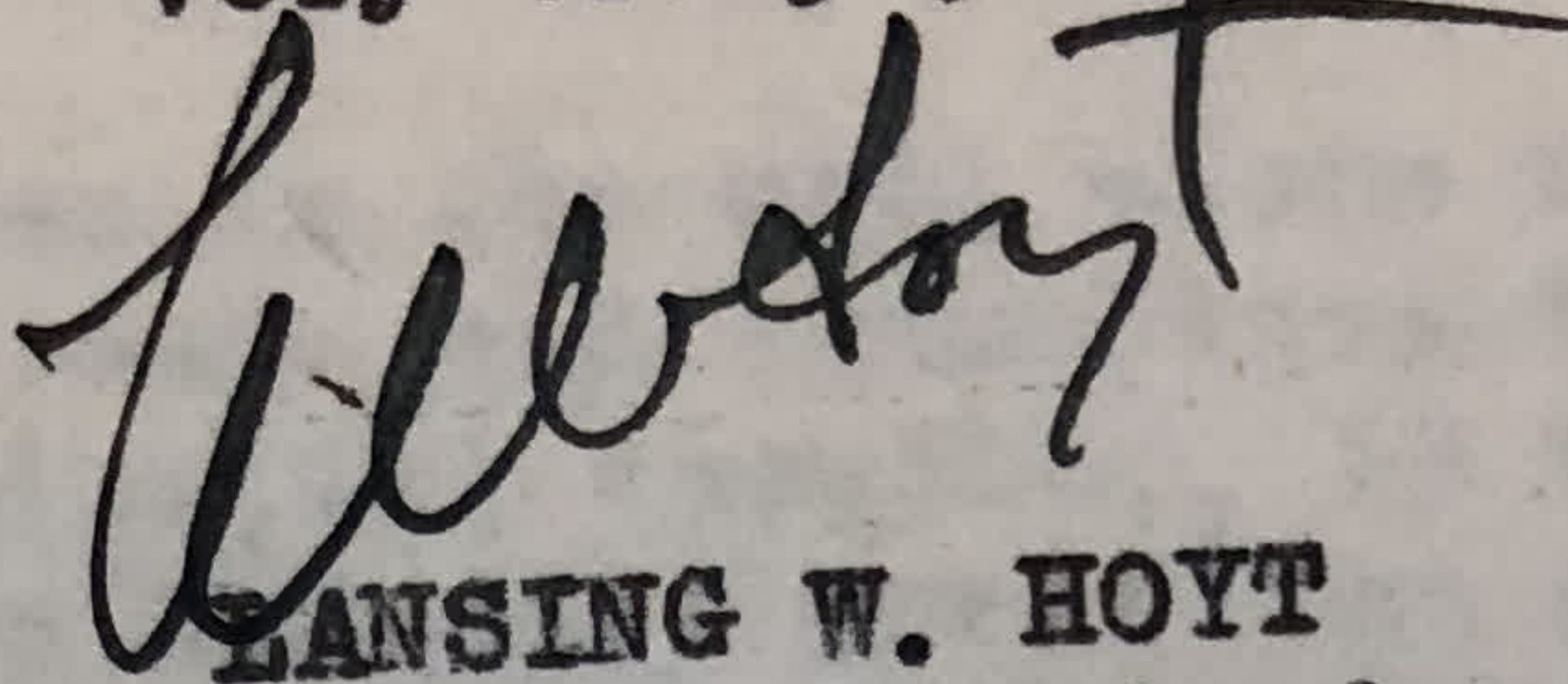
Tyres: For the two-seater cars, special small tyres are used. These are ordered by the inventor who can supply inner and outside tubes. For the bigger car which is in process of construction, the ordinary Ford tyres will be used.

Cost of Running: The cost of running is said to be the cheapest yet attained, about \$3 or \$4 per month being all that is necessary. No expensive repairing is required, as the mechanism will hardly ever get out of order.

Guarantee: The manufacturer gives a three-year guarantee for his products, both car and battery charger. At any time within three years after purchase, repairs will be made free of charge.

Development: The inventor is doing his best to popularize his machine which seems to answer the requirements of the Chinese users by reason of its comparative low cost, its handiness in that its size enables it to be parked anywhere, its small running expense, and its freedom from engine troubles."

Very truly yours,



LANSING W. HOYT
American Trade Commissioner.

↙
S:G

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ SERVICE

7/2/23

12

TRADE COMMISSIONER
3 CANTON ROAD
SHANGHAI, CHINA

SHANGHAI

July 2, 1923.
File No. 531.

Handwritten signature/initials

Subject: Manufacture of Automobiles in China.
(China Ming Shen Trading Company).

INDEXED
FILE NO. 531

China

Director,
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to Mr. Hoepli's memorandum of April 2nd and our reply thereto dated July 11th, we quote below an additional letter, received today, from the Chinese Government Bureau of Economic Information:

"Further in reference to our letter of June 8th, the Bureau's letter to the China Ming Shen Trading Company sent to the address reported some time ago was returned, the Post Office being unable to locate such a company at the address named.

"This probably means that the Company has not yet been established, and there is a question whether it will ever be established, since industrial capital is now very hard to secure; nor can the Bureau obtain any additional information concerning the subject from any other source."

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Lansing W. Hoyt

LANSING W. HOYT,
American Trade Commissioner.

19

IW